

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please delete the title -- ~~ANTIMONY SILICATE SORBENT FOR REMOVAL OF METAL IONS~~—and replace it with the following **METHOD OF EXTRACTING METAL IONS FROM AN AQUEOUS SOLUTION UTILIZING AN ANTIMONY SILICATE SORBENT**

Attached herewith is substitute page 2, 2a and 2b inserting new paragraph numbers [0003a] through [0003t].

Substitute paragraph [0020] with the following paragraph:

[0020] The material is also more efficient for Sr uptake than commercial materials in the presence of other cations such as Na^+ for example, see Figures 7a and 7b 7.

Substitute paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph:

[0025] Figures 8a and 8b 8 shows how the distribution coefficient, K_d , value for ^{85}Sr varies according to the drying temperature used.

Substitute paragraph [0054] with the following paragraph:

[0055] Figures 6a and 6b 6 shows how the K_d values are affected by the presence of Mg^{2+} ions.

Substitute paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph:

[0056] Figures 7a and 7b 7 shows how the K_d values are affected by the presence of Na^+ ions.

Substitute paragraph [0058] with the following paragraph:

[0058] Different antimony silicate samples were then prepared by heating the product to various temperatures. Samples were prepared by heating to 100°C, 200°C, 300°C, 450°C, 600°C and 800°C. Figures 8a and 8b and 9a and 9b shows how K_d for

^{85}Sr and ^{57}Co varies with the synthesis temperature. A slight maximum is seen at about 300°C. Separate results are given for the case when acid is added in the synthesis before the silicate (see below).

Substitute paragraph [0059] with the following paragraph:

[0059] (4) Effect of Adding Acid before Silicate

Samples were prepared as above with various synthesis temperatures except that some HNO_3 was added before TEOS to hasten the solubility of the $\text{KSb}(\text{OH})_6$. The comparison of the K_d values with and without prior addition of HNO_3 are shown in Figures **8a and 8b** and **9a and 9b**. The material prepared where the acid was added before the silicate was slightly better at removing ^{85}Sr and ^{57}Co .

Substitute paragraph [0060] with the following paragraph:

[0060] (5) Effect of Sb:Si ratio

Syntheses were also carried out in which the Sb:Si ratio was varied. The Sb:Si ratios used were 1:1, 2:1, 3:1, 1:2 and 1:3. Also a synthesis was carried out without any silicate to produce antimononic acid. The synthesis temperatures were about 100°C and 300°C. The K_d values for ^{85}Sr in 0.1M HNO_3 are shown in Figure 10a. **The K_d values for ^{57}Co in 0.1M HNO_3 are shown in Figure 10b.**